

for you, and to bless your posterity and make it happy.³¹ Fifteen days afterwards many little boats are made of bark and filled with rice, cakes, small coins, smoking incense sticks, and lighted candles. At evening these are set floating on the river, and the souls of the dead embark in them to return to their own place. The living now bid them farewell. "Go to the lands" they say, "go to the fields you inhabit, to the mountains, under the stones which are your abodes. Go away I return ! In due time your sons and your grandsons will think of you. Then you will return, you will return, you will return/' The river is now covered with twinkling points of fire. But the current soon bears them away, and as they vanish one by one in the darkness the souls depart with them to the far country.¹ Annual In Tonquii\ as in Sumba, the dead revisit their kinsfolk tted'eLfin and tlieir old homes at the New Year. From the hour of Tonquin. midnight, when the New Year begins, no one dares to shut the door of his house for fear of excluding the ghosts, who begin to arrive at that time. Preparations have been made to welcome and refresh them after their long journey. Beds and mats are ready for their weary bodies to repose upon, water to wash their dusty feet, slippers to comfort them, and canes to support their feeble steps. Candles burn on the domestic altar, and pastilles diffuse a fragrant odour. The people bow before the unseen visitors and beseech them to remember and bless their descendants in the coming year. Having discharged this pious duty they abstain from sweeping the houses for three days lest the dust

should mode the ghosts.² In Annam one of the most important festivals of the year is the festival of T&, which falls on the first three days of the New Year. It is devoted to the worship of ancestors. Everybody, even the poorest, must provide a good meal for the souls of his dead at this time and must himself eat and

¹ E. Aymonier, *Notice sur le Cambodge* (Paris, 1875), p. 59. ² Leclerc, *Cochinchine Française, Excursions et Le Buddhism? au Cambodge* (Paris, *Reconnaisances* No. 16 (Saigon, 1899), pp. 374-376. The departure 1883), pp. 205 sq. of the souls is described only by the ² Mariny, *delation noitvdh et cu-* latter writer. Compare E. Aymonier, *reuse des royaumes de Tunquin et de* "Notes sur les coutumes et croyances Lao (Paris, 1866), pp. 251-253.